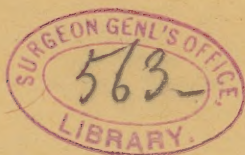


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A new semifluid product
Oleo-Stearate of zinc.



*Reprinted from the New York Medical Journal.
for May 30, 1896.*

A NEW SEMIFLUID PRODUCT, OLEO-STEARATE OF ZINC.

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MEDICINAL remedies for intranasal, pharyngeal, and laryngeal use should be more or less fluid, non-irritating, protective, tenacious, and easy of application. Owing to the necessarily fluid character of spray and douche solutions, these conditions are not fulfilled by them; neither do these solutions remain in contact with mucous surfaces long enough to produce their fullest remedial benefits.

The semifluid oily preparation described by me in the *Annals of Ophthalmology and Otology* for April, 1895, met many of the objections to sprays, but the lard and petroleum products of the base did not prove entirely satisfactory. The taste was unpleasant, and they did not retain the same density at all temperatures.

Mr. W. J. Evans, of the house of McKesson & Robbins, has carried out certain suggestions of mine in the formation of a new compound—oleo-stearate of zinc—which is chemically and pharmaceutically perfect, and is a valuable advance in the pharmacy of semifluid preparations. This stearic compound is prepared by combining a form of

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stearate of zinc with benzoinated liquid albolene, to make an opaque, semifluid, white, creamlike product, having a specific gravity at 60° F. of 0.832. It does not precipitate at the temperature of 212° F. and remains fluid at 14° F. and lower. It is neutral to litmus paper, almost tasteless, and entirely non-irritating to any mucous membrane.

My experience with this preparation has been chiefly in the treatment of diseases affecting the linings of the upper respiratory passages, but it may be used as an effective application to the skin or to any mucous surface. In my experience the oleo-stearate of zinc is specially valuable for intranasal applications in cases of diphtheria and scarlet fever, and in all diseases of the upper air tract occurring in young children. When applied in the nose with a camel's-hair brush, it clings for hours to the glandular openings or to any abrasions or spots of ulceration on the mucous membrane. It is readily diffused over the membrane of the nasopharynx, pharynx, and larynx; it may also be applied to the latter with a medicine dropper.

The oleo-stearate of zinc may, of course, be employed alone or in such combinations as the nature of the case indicates. The following combinations have, in the writer's experience, been most valuable: *Oleo-stearate of zinc with balsam of Peru*, in conditions requiring stimulation and healing. *With liquor plumbi subacetatis*, in acute rhinitis or the coryza accompanying a common cold. *With boric and carbolic acids*, in copious watery nasal discharges and hyperæmic conditions. *With iodine*, in dry and atrophic rhinitis and ozæna. *With tannic acid*, in nosebleed, and catarrhal conditions characterized by yellow discharges. *With camphor and menthol*, it is cooling, and therefore available in hay fever and coryza. *With acetanilide*, it is applied after operations as an antiseptic and protective. *With anti-pyrine*, as a hæmostatic in recurring epistaxis, and as a seda-

tive in irritable conditions of the mucous membrane. *With oleum pini pumilionis and eucalyptol*, it is soothing and curative as an intratracheal injection, in chronic bronchitis and asthmatic affections. *With oleum pini pumilionis*, as a sedative in irritable conditions of the nasal mucous membrane characterized by excessive sneezing. *With orthochlorphenol*, it is valuable in syphilitic ulcerations and ozæna.

